African Journal of Judicial Science

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Call for Papers

(Inaugural issue to be published in September 2026)

1.   About the African Journal of Judicial Science

The African Journal of Judicial Science (AJJS) is a premier, peer-reviewed, multi-lingual, open-access journal dedicated to advancing scholarship and policy dialogue on African judiciaries. The journal focuses on studying the totality of African judiciaries, by examining their emerging jurisprudence on the one hand, and judicial systems, reforms and practices, on the other. The journal seeks to promote interdisciplinary research, and provide actionable insights into judicial administration and access to justice.

African judiciaries and judicial systems of governance are increasingly playing a pivotal role in Africa's governance processes. They continue to navigate various challenges, including old and emerging issues that impact on judicial governance and access to justice. However, the current level of scholarly inquiry on the state of African judiciaries does not generally reflect this new reality.

AJJS seeks to provide an African platform for judges, judicial officers, judiciary staff, scholars, jurists, practitioners, policymakers, civil society, and other stakeholders in Africa's justice systems to explore topical issues regarding judicial systems and administration of justice. AJJS will be managed and published by the Kenya Judiciary Academy.

The AJJS welcomes submissions from authors for its inaugural issue, which will be published in **September 2026.**

2.   Submissions to the journal

AJJS welcomes submissions on the general area of African judicial systems, practice, and any themes and topics related to the judiciary in Africa. Submissions to the journal may be on any of the following areas:

- Studies and themes in 'judge-craft' and court practice

- Judicial institutional reforms and innovations. This may include:

  - Technological advancements in judicial processes, such as: e-filing, virtual courts, case tracking systems, court transcription systems;

  - Judiciary Enterprise Resource Planning systems;

  - Institutional capacity building; and

  - Structural reforms.

- Emerging issues in technology and justice. This may include:
  - human rights in the digital space,
  - artificial intelligence and justice processes,
  - digital privacy and protection, use of digital evidence in court adjudication,
  - equity and inclusiveness in technological solutions to administration of budgets,
  - institutional assessments of judicial transformation and technological uptake; and
  - the emerging impact of technologies in access to and administration of justice, among other related topics.
- Judicial responses to human rights, democratic consolidation, and social justice, and other human rights related issues, such as gender equality, socio-economic justice.
- Judicial independence and accountability, which may include: institutional independence and the accountability of judiciaries; individual accountability, disciplinary processes and ethics of judicial officers; and any other emerging issues.
- Formal and informal justice systems, including indigenous and alternative systems of justice
- Court and registry administration and management processes
- Assessing judiciary performance and outputs, measuring the performance of judges/judicial officers as well as administrative offices of African judiciaries.
- Comparative judicial studies, which may include transnational and regional judicial issues, such as, regional courts and African judicial processes, international justice systems, and cross-country analyses
- Decolonization of judicial systems and promoting of Afrocentric judicial frameworks and approaches
- Applied research and institutional collaboration in practical-oriented judicial governance themes
- The state, standards, style of judicial practice of the Bar: perspectives from the Bench
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- Any other relevant topics or issues that fall within the general scope of judicial systems and practice, jurisprudence, and judicial governance in Africa

3. **Instructions to authors and contributors:**

- All submissions to the journal must be original and should not be pending or undergoing consideration elsewhere for publication elsewhere.
- Any relevant information regarding the submitted work (including research funding, institutional affiliation or other relevant information) must be disclosed during submission/ review stage of the paper.
- The *African Journal of Judicial Studies* is a multi-lingual journal that is published in three languages (English, French, and Portuguese) and contributions are welcome in the three languages.
- *AJJS* accepts manuscripts that range between 8 000 and 10 000 words for articles. Contributors are required to include a 300 word abstract that provides a summary of the article, including the contribution of the article to knowledge and practice, and findings.
- Manuscript should be submitted together with the abstract by e-mail to **ajjs@kja.go.ke**
- The Journal does not charge any fees and the published journal is freely accessible to readers

All articles will be taken through the following steps immediately after submission:

- Checking for plagiarism and Artificial Intelligence (AI) generated content, using appropriate software and a thorough review of the submissions.
- Initial check of content for relevance to the journal, quality of content and editorial compliance. Authors will be informed at this stage if the article will proceed to full review.
- Each article submitted to the journal will be subjected to a double-blind review process by at least two subject matter experts.
- Contributors will revise the articles based on the comments from the peer review process as well as the comments by the editor-in-chief and the AJJS editorial team.
- The contributor will be informed whether the paper has been accepted for publication, based on the comments from the peer reviewers and the editor-in-chief. Where an article is rejected, the contributor can revise the article to address the issues raised and re-submit in the same manner.
- The Journal reserves the right to edit the content and structure of articles submitted to align the same to the journal's style guide and editorial policy.

4. Contributions

- Original peer reviewed articles 8,000 – 10,000 words
- Case notes (analyses of landmark judicial decisions) 2,000 – 3,000 words
- Policy briefs (actionable policy recommendations targeting judiciary policy makers and practitioners in the region) 2,500 – 3,500 words
- Book reviews (reviews of recent publications in judicial studies) 1500 - 2,000 words
- Commentaries (reflections on judicial conferences, reforms, and relevant emerging/ topical issues to the theme of judicial governance theme) 2,000 – 3,000 words
- Forum section (invited essays, debate, and replies on contentious issues in judicial studies) 3,000 - 6,000 words

Guidelines for submissions

Initial submissions to the AJJS will adhere to the Oxford Standard of Citation for Legal Authorities (OSCOLA) accessible here **https://www.law.ox.ac.uk/sites/files/oxlaw/oscola_4th_edn_hart_2012.pdf**

Date of submission

All articles and submissions for the inaugural issue should be sent to **ajjs@kja.go.ke** by **30 April 2026**